General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 July 2012

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 32

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/66/L.52 and Add.1)*]

66/285. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/30 of 7 December 1994, 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996, 52/18 of 21 November 1997, 53/31 of 23 November 1998, 54/36 of 29 November 1999, 55/43 of 27 November 2000, 56/96 of 14 December 2001, 56/269 of 27 March 2002, 58/13 of 17 November 2003, 58/281 of 9 February 2004, 60/253 of 2 May 2006, 61/226 of 22 December 2006, 62/7 of 8 November 2007 and 64/12 of 9 November 2009,

Recalling also the declarations and plans of action of the six international conferences of new or restored democracies, adopted in Manila in 1988,[1] Managua in 1994,[2] Bucharest in 1997,[3] Cotonou in 2000,[4] Ulaanbaatar in 2003[5] and Doha in 2006,[6]

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles and purposes contained therein, and recognizing that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations,

Stressing that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

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[1] A/43/538, annex.

[2] A/49/713, annexes I and II.

[3] A/52/334, annex, appendix.

[4] A/55/889, annex.

[5] A/58/387, annexes I and II.

[6] A/61/581, annex.

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Reaffirming also that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty, the right to self-determination and territorial integrity,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Mindful of the central role of parliaments and the active involvement of civil society organizations and media and their interaction with Governments at all levels in promoting democracy, freedom, equality, participation, development, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law,

Noting the role of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in support of the New or Restored Democracies Movement,

Noting also the establishment of the International Day of Democracy on 15 September, as noted in resolution 62/7, which was celebrated for the first time in 2008,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy, including through increased bilateral, regional and international cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices;

3. *Invites* Member States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, national parliaments, including in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other parliamentary organizations, and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the follow-up process of the international conferences of new or restored democracies;

4. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals to continue to commemorate the International Day of Democracy in an appropriate manner that contributes to raising public awareness;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures, within existing resources, for the observance by the United Nations of the International Day of Democracy;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States by providing sustainable assistance for building national capacity and adequate support for their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization, including through the activities of the United Nations Democracy Fund;

7. *Also urges* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to improve coherence and coordination among United Nations initiatives in the area of democracy assistance, including interactions with all stakeholders, in order to ensure that democracy assistance is more effectively integrated into the work of the Organization;

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[7] A/66/353.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine options for strengthening the support provided by the United Nations system for the efforts of Member States to consolidate democracy and achieve good governance;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

121st plenary meeting
3 July 2012